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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA IN CANADA

REF: A. STATE 51536

[1](#)B. OTTAWA 628

[1](#)C. STATE 46997

[1](#)1. (U) Following Embassy outreach to the Prime Minister's Office and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (reftels) to encourage Canadian actions in support of the Day of Solidarity with Cuba, Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier issued the following statement "in recognition of May 21 as the Day of Solidarity with the Cuban People:"

quote

Canada's links with the people of Cuba go back many years. Indeed, Cuba was the first Caribbean nation selected by Canada as a location for a Canadian diplomatic mission.

Canada engages Cuban society through our diplomatic presence which is aimed at helping to lay the groundwork for a Cuba that upholds freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This is in keeping with our renewed engagement in the Americas.

Canada continues to monitor developments in Cuba closely, and we are concerned about the plight of political prisoners, especially those suffering from poor health. It is our hope that recent shifts will open the way for the Cuban people to pursue a process of political and economic reform.

end quote

[1](#)2. (U) The "National Post" -- the leading daily of Canada's only truly national newspaper chain -- on May 21 published an op ed piece by Ambassador Wilkins based on ref a text.

[1](#)3. (U) Mission Canada websites prominently feature the President's statement and other Department texts and links.

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